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History of Montague County. By Mrs. W. R. Potter. (County Series Reader.) n. p., n. d. 191 pages, 12mo.

History and Reminiscences of Denton County. By Ed. F. Bates. Denton, 1918. 412 pages, 8vo. Ill.

The field of local history in Texas is rich, but it has thus far received indifferent attention. It is, therefore, with mingled pride and curiosity that the volumes listed above are welcomed. Each was prepared by a writer untrained in writing history, and each is a pioneer effort in their counties.

The author of the *History of Montague County* says, "It was the first purpose of the author . . . to write a history that would only be read in the homes of the county; but, after much deliberation, . . . it was decided to condense the work and put it in a form that could be studied as a supplementary reader in the public schools of this county." The result is not satisfactory as a county history, and the selections are ill-suited for a reader. Over half the book is devoted to stories of Indian atrocities (pp. 8-114), there is a brief description of pioneer life (pp. 118-127), brief sketches of the organization and development of Montague County (pp. 133-142, 163-173), and the remainder is extraneous material having very slight connection with county history.

The *History and Reminiscences of Denton County* owes its existence to the Old Settlers' Association of that county. In 1893 this association created a committee charged with the duty of preparing and publishing such a work. The committee was continued in 1914 and 1915. In 1916 the association placed the enterprise in the hands of its secretary, Mr. Ed. F. Bates, who had been a member of the history committee from the beginning. Mr. Bates is an old settler and brought to his task a sympathetic appreciation and extensive personal knowledge of the events recorded.

The greater portion of the book relates to the pioneer days—the twenty years preceding the Civil War. Long lists of early settlers, with illustrations of pioneer faces and scenes, will cause this volume to be treasured by those who helped to develop that prosperous section of the State, and the description of the life of the frontier is a permanent contribution to the history of Texas. The events of the Civil War and reconstruction periods receive

brief mention, and the period since 1875 has been touched in a few places only.

The reminiscences, which comprise almost one-third of the volume, were written within the last few years, but deal principally with the period of settlement. They constitute a valuable portion of the book. An interesting series of twenty letters, written by an anonymous writer in Denton county to a friend in Arkansas, from August 30, 1868, to May 1, 1870, is printed with the reminiscences.

Some defects of the book that, perhaps, should be mentioned are loose organization, some repetition, and the inclusion of some matters to the exclusion of others which to the reviewer appear more important. For example, Sam Bass receives almost as much space as John B. Denton. In the account of the North Texas State Normal and College of Industrial Arts the faculty and courses of 1917-1918 are included. On the other hand, no connected account of Peters' Colony is given; no account is given of the newspapers of Denton county, although it is evident that next to the old settlers their files were helpful in writing the history; and one can obtain from this volume no adequate picture of Denton county today—the result of all that is chronicled in this history.

E. W. WINKLER.

Annie Carter Lee.—In *History of Woman Suffrage*, II, 22, it is stated that Annie Carter Lee was banished from home by her father, General Robert E. Lee, on account of her adherence to the National cause. Annie Carter died of typhoid in North Carolina during 1862. Letters from General Lee written at the time of her death amply refute the statement in the *History of Woman Suffrage*, but Mr. James Callaway recently asked Miss Mary Curtis Lee for a statement of the facts, and in a letter, dated Richmond, April 20, 1918, she brands this statement as a fabrication and gives a full account of her sister's death. This letter is printed in the *Houston Post* of May 1 and June 16, 1918, and has probably appeared in the columns of many Southern papers.